



Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

Bucks County Community College, PA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Bucks County Community College for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. The community college's Brownfields Assessment Pilot partner is Bucks County, which is located along the Delaware River in eastern Pennsylvania. The Job Training Pilot will focus on six municipalities (population 272,000) in the county's state-designated Enterprise Zone. The six municipalities are among the nation's oldest communities and the county's most populous. Over the past two decades, the loss of 10,000 jobs from steel manufacturing facilities and general industrial downsizing has left the Enterprise Zone with the county's highest unemployment rates. In some areas, 23 percent of the residents are unemployed.

There are more than three square miles of vacant property as well as a significant number of underused buildings in the Enterprise Zone. The properties are not being redeveloped primarily because of perceived environmental contamination. Economic and community-based revitalization initiatives in the Enterprise Zone and a lack of trained technicians in the area indicate a need for environmental training.

PILOT SNAPSHOT

Date of Announcement:
May 1999

Amount: \$200,000



*Bucks County
Community College,
Pennsylvania*

Profile: The Pilot will train 30 participants as brownfields technicians. Students will be recruited from a state-designated Enterprise Zone encompassing six municipalities along the Delaware River that are economically depressed as a result of the loss of heavy industries and general industrial downsizing.

Contacts:

Bucks County
Community College
(215) 968-8190

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 3
(215) 814-3129

Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/brownfld/hmpage1.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Bucks County Community College plans to train 30 students at a newly renovated campus in the Enterprise Zone, achieve an 80 percent placement rate, and track graduates for at least one year. Participants will be recruited from the disadvantaged residents of the Enterprise Zone. The Pilot training program will consist of a 14-week brownfield technician training program, including training in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies.

The training efforts of Bucks County Community College will be supported by organizations such as the Redevelopment Authority of Bucks County, Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc., Penn Environmental & Remediation, Inc., and Bucks County Office of Employment and Training, Inc. The college is developing a career ladder leading to an Associate's Degree, and local environmental engineering firms have committed to providing internships for students.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit disadvantaged residents of the Enterprise Zone;
- Conducting brownfield technician training, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for at least one year after the job training is completed.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.